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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,823	09/07/2004	Yoshinobu Takahashi	114208-029	8925
24573	7590	02/24/2006	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC PO BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	
DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/506,823

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (US 6,430,786 B1).

A male fixing member (110,210,310) engages and disengages sheet faces of sheet members (130,230,330) through a surface fastener engaging and disengaging mechanism (Figs. 5-11). The male fixing member comprises a first base material (11,111,211,311) and a second base material (12,112,212, 312) that are disposed so as to oppose each other and a column joint portion (112a,112b,212a,212b,316). A surface of the first base material has a plurality of male engaging elements (215). A rear

surface of the first base material and the second base material are jointed together through the column joint portion (Figs. 5-11).

The column joint portion is molded integrally with any one of the first base material and the second base material (Figs. 5-7).

The first base material and the second base material are formed integrally through the column joint portion (Figs. 5-7).

The first base material and the male engaging elements are formed of synthetic resin material while the first base material and the male engaging elements are molded integrally (C. 4, L. 42-61 and Figs. 5-7).

The first base material is constituted of metallic material and a male surface fastener piece having the male engaging elements is bonded to a surface of the first base material (C. 8, L. 66 to C. 9, L. 5).

A front end portion of the column joint portion has an engaging/ disengaging head portion (112', 112b') and a joint portion of the first base material or the second base material that is fixed with the column joint portion has an engaging/ disengaging portion (111a, 111b) that allows engagement/ disengagement with/from the engaging/disengaging head portion of the column joint portion (Figs. 5 and 6).

A front end portion of the column joint portion has a structure (tip of 212a and 212b) deformable plastically in a diameter (212a', 212b') expanding in a direction perpendicular to an axial line of the column joint portion and a joint portion (body of 212a and 212b with exception of the tip) of the first base material or the second base material that is integral with the column joint portion has an attachment portion

(211a,211b) that receives the front end portion of the column joint portion and when the front end portion is deformed plastically, a deformed portion (212a',212b') is attached and secured thereto (C.9, L. 36 to C. 10, L. 9 and Fig. 7).

The male fixing member is attached to a joining portion of any one of the sheet members through the column joint portion (Figs. 5-11).

The sheet members are clothes and the joining portions an opening/ closing portion of the clothes (Fig. 4).

The sheet members are ones of various kinds of suspension clothes and the joining portion is a suspending portion of the suspension cloth (Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Murasaki (US 5,685,050).

Ikeda discloses a male fixing member having all the features mentioned above for the rejection of claim 1. The male engaging elements are formed on the surface of the first base material are composed of hook pieces and all the hook pieces are

oriented into a single direction. Ikea fails to disclose that a number of the hook pieces are disposed on plural sectioned engaging areas on the surface of the first base while engaging direction of the male engaging elements are different between adjacent areas. However, Murasaki teaches a hook structure (1) comprising hook pieces (11). A number of the hook pieces are disposed on plural sectioned engaging areas on the surface of the first base while engaging direction of the male engaging elements are different between adjacent areas (Figs. 7-9). This arrangement prevents accidental disengagement of the hook pieces from loop engaging elements that engage the hook pieces (C. 3, L. 54-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have a number of the hook pieces are disposed on plural sectioned engaging areas on the surface of the first base while engaging direction of the male engaging elements are different between adjacent areas as taught by Murasaki in the male fixing member disclosed by Ikeda. Doing so, prevents accidental disengagement of the hook pieces from loop engaging elements that engage the hook pieces.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Kasai (US 4,982,480).

Ikeda discloses a male fixing member having all the features mentioned above for the rejection of claim 1 and it also discloses that any one of the first base material and the second base material has an insertion hole for the column joint portion in a center thereof and has an expanded portion provided around the insertion hole (Figs. 5-11). Ikeda fails to disclose that the insertion hole has a plurality of sliding prevention

protrusions. However, Kasai discloses a pair of snap fasteners where each snap fastener has a plurality of sliding prevention protrusions (19,20) provided around an insertion hole at a predetermined interval (Figs. 1-9). The sliding prevention protrusions prevent displacement of wobbling with respect to each other once they are assembled together. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a plurality of sliding prevention protrusions as taught by Kasai can be provided in the male fixing engagement member such that any one of the first base material and the second base material having the insertion hole with the expanded portion provided around the insertion hole will also have a plural sliding preventing protrusions provided around the expanded portion with a predetermined interval. Doing so, prevent displacement of wobbling with respect to each other once they are assembled together.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Baker (US 3,405,408), Ribich et al. (US 3,851,357), Brumlik (US 3,905,071), Clayton (US 4,625,862), Aronson (US 4,939,794), Kasai (US 4,982,480), Goodrich et al. (US 5,048,160), Stacavich-Notaro (US 5,282,616), Keyaki et al. (US 5,655,268), Murasaki (US 5,685,050) and Ikeda et al. (US 6,430,786 B1) are cited to show state of

the art with respect to closure having loop-shaped portion and hook shaped portion where the hook comprises a first hook and a second hook intersecting the first hook.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase the patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as PTO's mailroom processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee that the applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to
the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on (Date).

(Signature)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

rcr
February 21, 2006


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER